

Application No. 09/334,510
Amendment dated January 13, 2005
In reply to Office Action dated November 4, 2004

Docket No. 1232-4544

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendment and following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 5-11, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 19 and 22 are independent. All of the pending claims stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

All of the pending claims (i.e., claims 5-11, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 23) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,987,186 to Oida et al. ("Oida") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,499,108 to Cotte et al. ("Cotte").

In response to Applicants' argument made in the Amendment filed March 5, 2004, the Examiner describes:

"Examiner disagrees and points out Cotte et al, column 10, lines 34-40 where the insertion of the paper also causes a code to be sent over the cable to the input device software resident on the host 210 which triggers the host to read the serial port to which the cable 212 is coupled to receive the data coming in from the input device 214."

Applicants note that column 10, lines 28-40 of Cotte describes:

The input device 214 uses one or more paper sensors such as sensors 222 to sense the insertion of the document to be scanned into the input device 214. These paper sensors generate a signal which triggers the scanning mechanism in the input device to start drawing the document 216 into the input device and passing it under a linear imaging array such as a CCD which generates scan lines of data. The insertion of the paper also causes a code to be sent over the RS232 cable to the input device software resident on the host 210 which triggers the host to read the serial port to which the RS232 cable 212 is coupled to receive the data coming in from the input device 214.

It appears in Cotte that the insertion of the document to be scanned into the input device 214 triggers both the scanning mechanism and the input device software resident in the host 210.

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In contrast, one of the aspects of the present invention as commonly featured in independent claims 5, 19 and 22 is directed to a two-step scanning operation of a print device. In a first step, the scanner software installed in the external computer is started when it is detected that the scan head is mounted on the print device. As a result of the first step, the print device may enter into a communication standby state, e.g., a software for an user interface manager may be started and a dialog box such as shown in Fig. 4 may be displayed on the computer screen. See, for example, page 21, lines 9-24 of the original specification. In a second step of operation, the scanning operation actually begins automatically when the original to be scanned is detected. Applicant believes that the cited references (i.e., Oida and Cotte) fail to show or suggest at least this aspect of the invention.

Accordingly, each of claims 5, 19 and 22 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Oida and Cotte, taken either alone or in combination, for at least the reasons discussed above.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of independent claims 5, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant has not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicant submits that the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicant however reserves the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

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Docket No. 1232-4544

AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4544). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 13, 2005

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